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Follow ^{the} Fish

The WCVI Follow the Fish Program

One of British Columbia's most important natural resources:
Chinook salmon from the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI)

Characterizing juvenile Chinook salmon distribution,
diet and health on the West Coast of Vancouver Island

Newsletter Vol. 5 • November 2025



Canada



Photo: Eiko Jones

Chinook salmon from the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) are one of British Columbia’s most important natural resources. These stocks have long been major contributors to First Nations, commercial troll, and sport catches, from Alaska to southern Vancouver Island. However, WCVI wild Chinook are of conservation concern. Most populations remain at low levels showing no signs of rebuilding despite management actions implemented over the last 20 years; some populations in south-west Vancouver Island continue to decline.

WCVI natural-origin Chinook are of high fisheries relevance and conservation concern. In 2022, WCVI Chinook were included in the Fish Stock Provisions of Canada’s Fisheries Act, triggering the development of a rebuilding plan. A series of freshwater and marine risk assessments to assess key biological risks impacting WCVI Chinook provided preliminary information on potential sources of mortality; however, confidence in evaluating risks was low as a result of a substantial number of data and knowledge gaps. These gaps were particularly related to factors impacting mortality during the first marine year.

The status of WCVI Chinook prompted DFO’s Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) to fund the “Follow the Fish” (FtF) program in 2023. The key goals of this program were to address data gaps and improve understanding of the factors limiting productivity and survival of WCVI Chinook salmon to enable the identification of highest risks for mitigation and management action. Eleven projects under this program are measuring key biological and ecological factors impacting Chinook across their life cycle, with a focus on the early marine phase. FtF aims to improve understanding of this period through an intensive surveying program to catch and sample juvenile Chinook through freshwater, estuarine and marine environments and characterize the ecosystems they utilize (Figure 1).

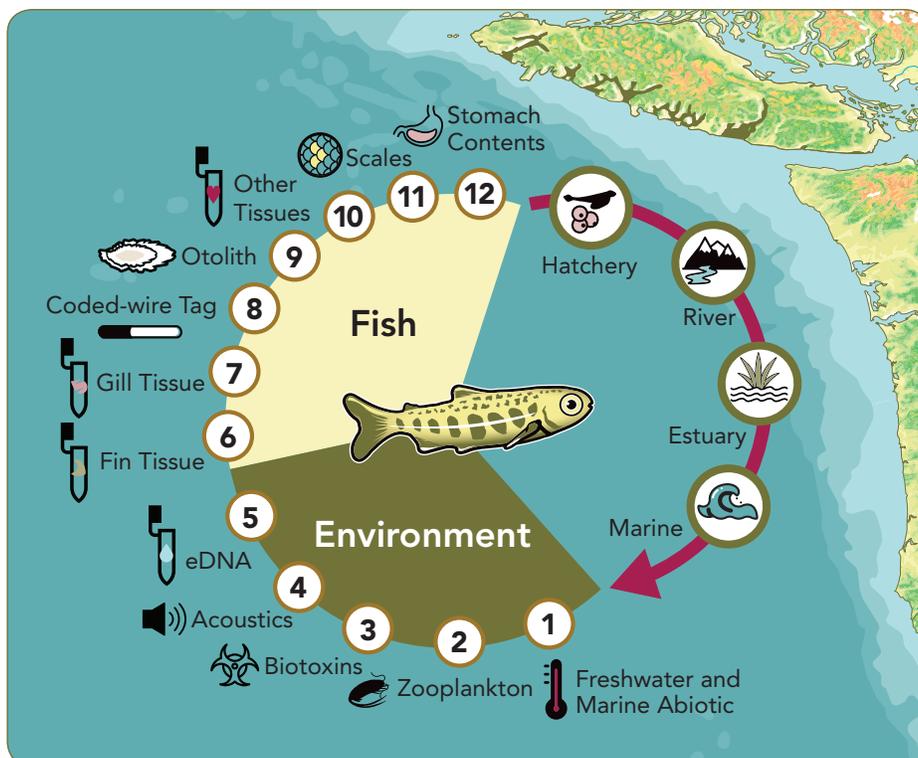


Figure 1. Graphical abstract of the Follow the Fish research program and samples being collected from Chinook salmon and the environments they reside in along the WCVI. The numbered items refer to the different samples that are being collected from salmon (6-12) and the environment (1-5) in hatchery, freshwater, estuarine and marine environments.



Objectives

This newsletter describes the work being carried out by the Follow the Fish WCVI Salmon Survey team, whose work makes up a major component of the FtF program.

Understanding *when and where* fish are will allow us to better understand where, when and how they may be *exposed to different stressors such as disease, poor feeding conditions, predators, biotoxins and contaminants* (stressors that are being examined by other Follow the Fish projects). Access to high quality prey items and intra-specific competition for prey sources during the early marine phase can impact juvenile salmon growth. Early marine growth is thought to be critical to subsequent survival, with bigger fish having higher chances of survival.

Thus, this project aims to improve understanding of the distribution of juvenile Chinook salmon on the WCVI, and to characterize their diet and growth across the first year at sea. Specifically, the team has been following juvenile Chinook populations on the west coast of Vancouver Island through annual catch and sampling surveys to:

- 1. Assess spatial and temporal distribution of juvenile Chinook populations during their first winter at sea within nearshore marine waters on the WCVI.**
- 2. Assess relative rates of growth between populations through space and time.**
- 3. Characterize the diet of juvenile Chinook populations through space and time and how this relates to salmon growth.**
- 4. Contrast hatchery and wild Chinook in the first three objectives to characterize potential differences and assess levels of intra-specific competition.**
- 5. Sample the environments that juvenile Chinook are caught in to characterize abiotic variables.**
- 6. Collaborate with other FtF researchers to provide fish samples for comprehensive analysis of health and condition at an individual fish level.**



Methods

Salmon Capture Surveys

In collaboration with 17 First Nations, and 12 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the FtF program has been catching and sampling juvenile Chinook during their first year in estuarine and nearshore marine waters along the WCVI since 2020. Efforts have focused on “following” juvenile Chinook that originate in Nitinat Lake and Barkley Sound, as there are Chinook populations of relatively high abundance in these areas that enable high catch and sampling rates over space and time. Juvenile salmon are captured during their spring migration into the Sarita estuary, Nitinat Lake, and Somass Estuary (Figure 2 B, C, D), in Barkley Sound where they rear in the summer (Figure 2 C, E), and in nearshore marine waters along the WCVI during their first winter at sea (Figure 2 A).

Spring Outmigration

To fully “follow” juvenile Chinook during their first year at sea, sampling begins with spring surveys to catch Chinook during their outmigration from freshwater rivers to the ocean. From 2023-2024, Chinook originating from Stamp River, Sarita River and Nitinat River were caught and sampled using rotary screw traps (RST), beach seining and dip netting methods. In the Stamp River and Somass estuary, juvenile Chinook originating from Stamp River were caught through dip net and beach seine surveys with Hupačasath First Nation (Figure 2 B). In the Sarita Estuary, RST, beach and purse seine surveys were led by Huu-ay-aht First Nation and LGL Limited as part of their longstanding monitoring program for Sarita River juvenile Chinook (Figure 2 C); data and samples were shared with Follow the Fish. In Nitinat Lake, beach seine surveys were carried out with Ditidaht First Nation to catch juveniles from the Nitinat River population (Figure 2 D). Handheld YSI devices were used where possible to measure abiotic water variables at sampling locations.

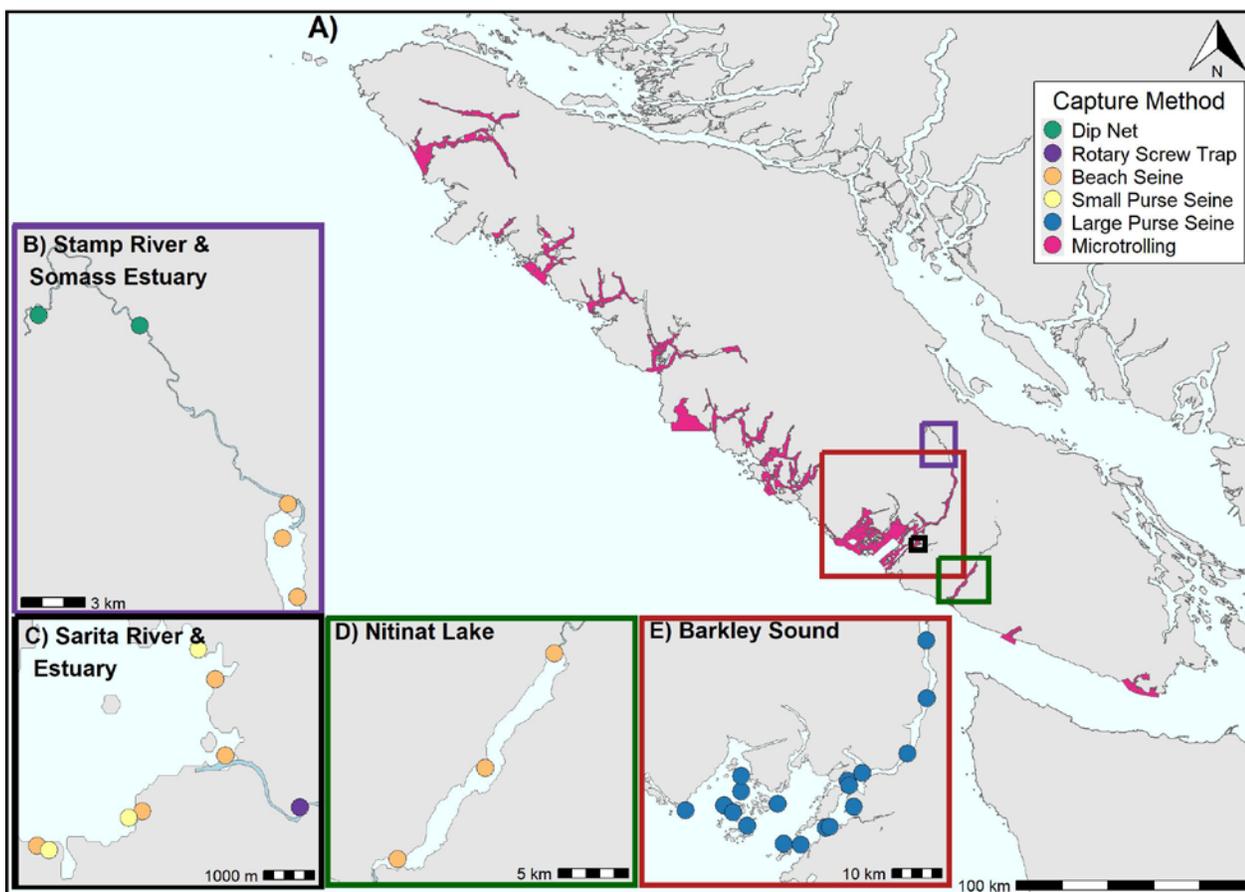


Figure 2. Map of the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) sampling locations for salmon surveys from 2020-2025, colored insert boxes indicate zooms. Freshwater surveys occurred in the Stamp River with a dip net (B) and in the Sarita River using a rotary screw trap (RST) (C). Estuary surveys included beach seining in the Somass (B) and Sarita (C) estuaries and in Nitinat Lake (D). Nearshore marine survey areas included Numukamis Bay small purse seining (C) and large purse seining throughout Barkley Sound (E). Nearshore marine microtrolling surveys were carried out in the pink shaded areas on the WCVI from Sooke Basin through Quatsino Sound (A).

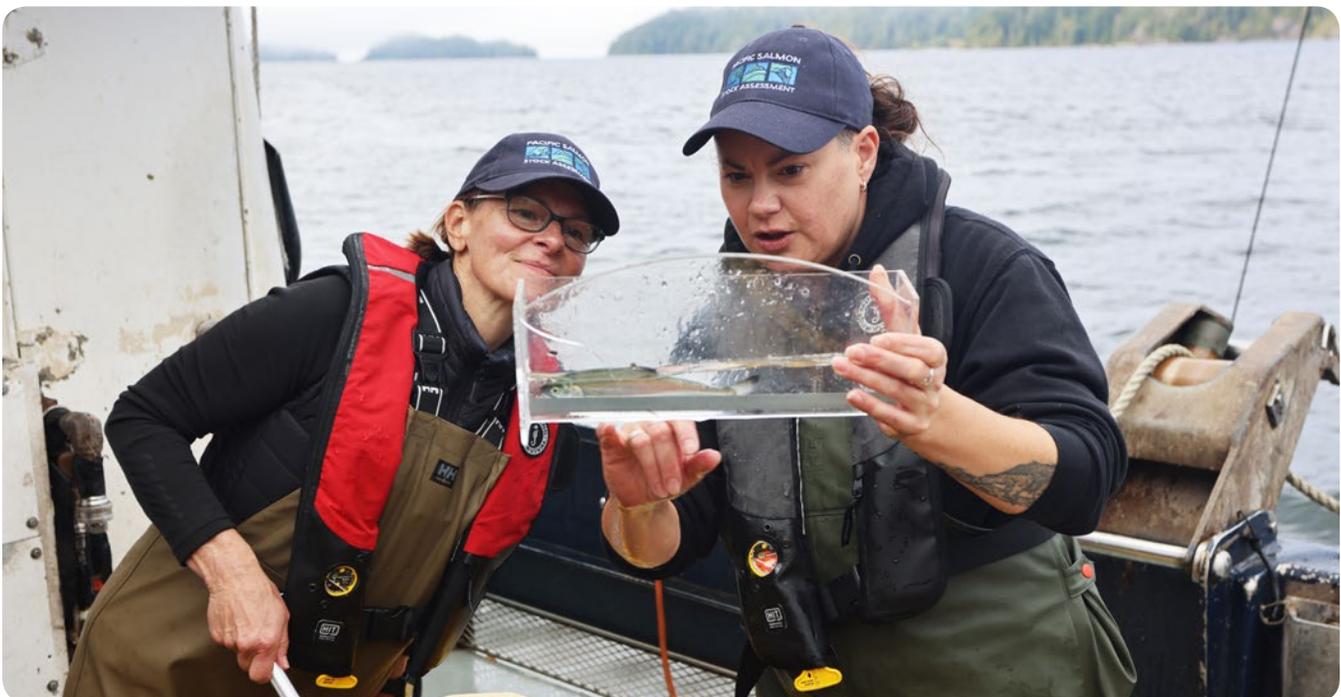


Nita Maria purse seine vessel with DFO South Coast Stock Assessment staff and Coal Harbour Ltd. crew

Summer Surveys

Fish were caught and sampled into their first summer at sea by carrying out purse seine surveys in Barkley Sound from May through September. Barkley Sound provides summer rearing habitat for local Chinook populations, such as Sarita and Stamp River, and for northern migrating salmon populations. In 2022, DFO piloted this purse seine program and from 2023-2025 these surveys were

jointly funded and carried out under the Follow the Fish program with Huu-ay-aht First Nation and LGL Limited to achieve shared objectives around understanding salmon health. Purse seine sets were carried out at multiple sites throughout Barkley Sound (Figure 2 E) and CTD casts were completed at each set location to collect information on environmental variables.



DFO South Coast Stock Assessment staff sampling fish during purse seining in Barkley Sound



Microtrolling in Clayoquot Sound with Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Winter Surveys

Before the FtF program was funded in 2023, efforts were already underway to monitor juvenile Chinook populations in nearshore marine waters on the WCVI. From 2020-2023, a collaborative assessment program between local First Nations, NGOs, and DFO was carried out to monitor WCVI juvenile Chinook during their first winter at sea. Fishing teams used a method called **microtrolling** to fish for juvenile Chinook in WCVI Sounds from October through March. In 2023, the funding received for FtF allowed the continuation of this monitoring program and expanded sampling into new areas and with new collaborators.

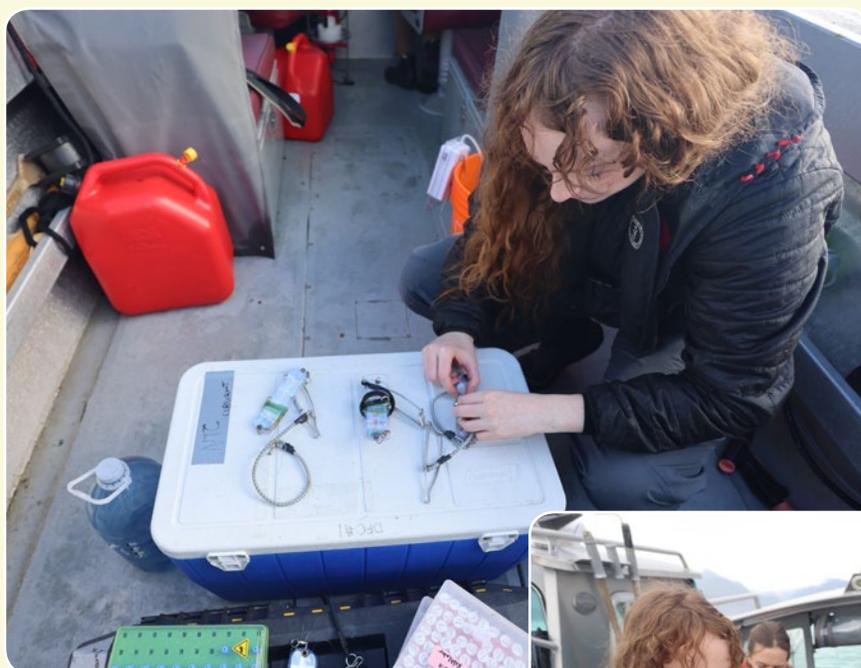
From 2020-2025, 27 collaborating organizations and First Nations have participated in on-the-water fishing from Sooke Basin through Quatsino Sound on the WCVI (Figure 3). Fishing teams have collected information on catch and effort to characterize juvenile Chinook distribution along the WCVI, and collected samples to understand health and condition. Where possible, environmental data were collected at fishing locations using instruments (CTD, YSI) that measure water temperature, oxygen and salinity, allowing for characterization of oceanographic conditions at the locations that WCVI Chinook are found.



Figure 3. Nearshore marine areas fished during microtrolling surveys along the WCVI showing logos of the collaborators that carried out surveys within each area between 2020-2025.

What is Microtrolling?

Microtrolling is a method used to non-lethally capture juvenile Chinook salmon during their first marine summer¹. The method employs small vessels and modified recreational fishing gear such as specialized downriggers, and small lures and hooks. To microtroll, fishing lines with miniature flashers, spoons and hooks are deployed using a downrigger to fish for juvenile Chinook at multiple depths throughout the water column. Sometimes other fish species, such as rockfish, are caught and released, while juvenile Chinook are sampled both lethally and non-lethally. Microtrolling has been used to understand the early marine life, migration patterns, and mortality rates of Pacific salmon (generally Chinook or coho) and is an effective, low-impact and economical method for sampling these species. This method has been used with success on the east coast of Vancouver Island by the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the Juanes lab at the University of Victoria, who lent their expertise to this project to start up microtrolling on the WCVI.



Miniaturized fishing gear used during microtrolling for juvenile Chinook during their first winter at sea

Sampling a juvenile Chinook caught during microtrolling in Clayoquot Sound — with DFO, Ha'oom Fisheries Society, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council



1. Duguid, W.D.P., & Juanes, F. (2017). Microtrolling: an Economical Method to Nonlethally Sample and Tag Juvenile Pacific Salmon at Sea. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 146(2), 359–369. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00028487.2016.1256835>

The Follow the Fish program “follows” juvenile Chinook salmon as they enter marine waters from their natal rivers, and through the summer and first winter as they rear along the WCVI

Sampling Juvenile Chinook

Fish captured during spring, summer and winter surveys are sampled to collect information about the fish’s health, condition and origin, with a variety of samples collected (Figure 4). Information on fish length and height and adipose clip-status are recorded, clinical signs of disease pathology are noted, and clips of both the fin and gill tissues are collected before releasing a fish. Salmon are scanned to detect if any fish are PIT tagged and detections reported to other research programs in the area applying

these tags. Collected samples support multiple projects under FtF and are used to provide information related to a fish’s origin, health, and condition (Table 1, next page). A subset of fish are sampled lethally to obtain internal structures and tissues, such as otoliths, stomachs, and liver tissue, and scales are also collected for various purposes (Table 1). Under this project, fin-clip, scale, and stomach samples are most important to characterize distribution of Chinook stocks, the diet of fish and their relative rates of growth during their first year at sea (Table 1).

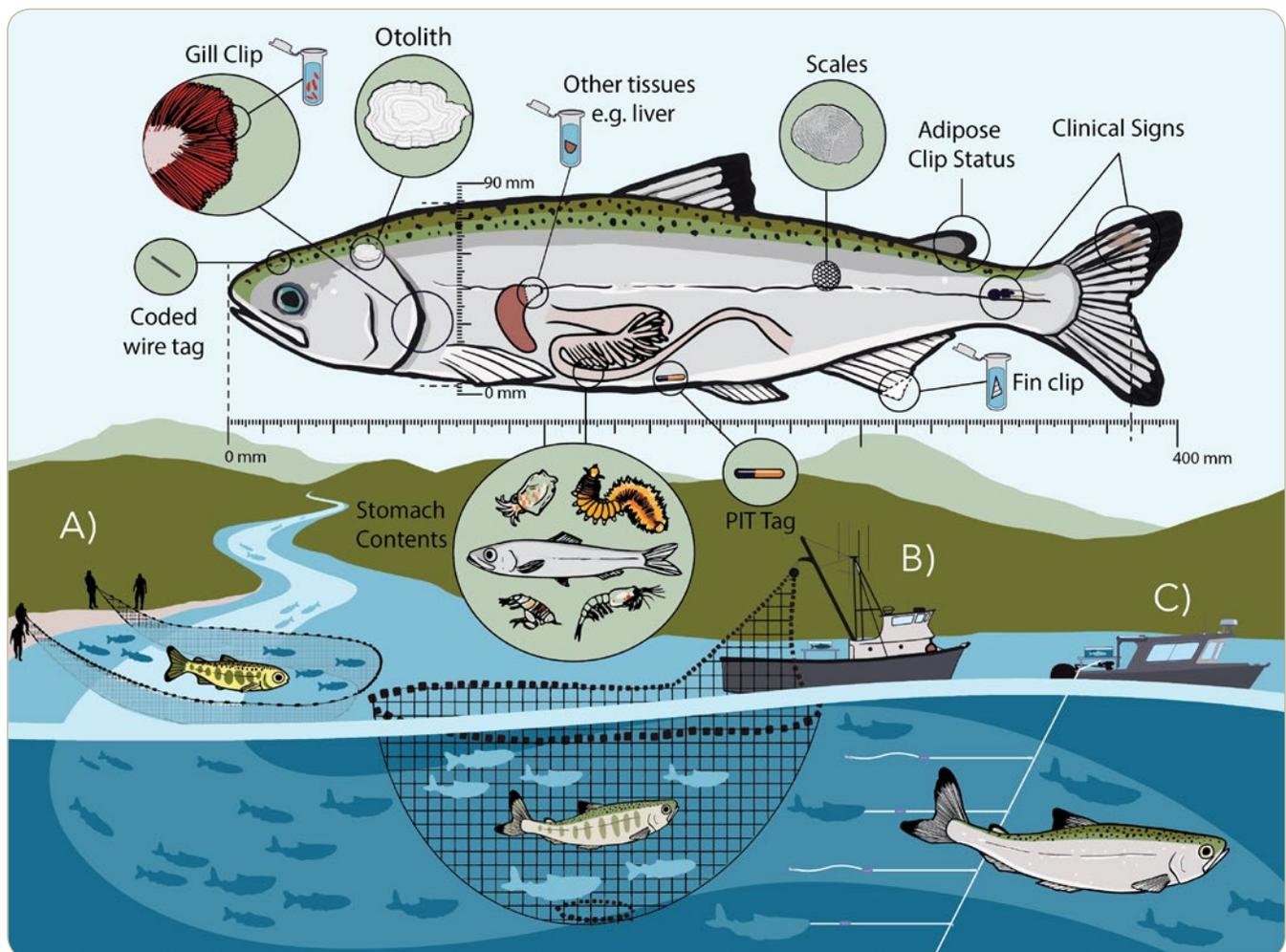


Figure 4. Schematic showing primary salmon catch surveys utilized under this project and biological data and samples collected from caught juvenile Chinook salmon. Juvenile Chinook are caught throughout their first year at sea during spring beach seine surveys (A), summer purse seine surveys (B) and winter microtrawling surveys (C).

Table 1. Samples collected from caught juvenile Chinook salmon during capture surveys along the WCVI and their use under the Follow the Fish projects.

Sample	Utility
Fin clip + coded wire tag	Non-lethal fin clips are used to identify stock of origin using genetic stock identification (GSI) methods. Coded wire tags detected in lethally sampled fish provide also provide stock of origin information.
Gill clip	Non-lethal gill clips are used to inform health status of fish gained through application of salmon Fit-Chips that provide information on environmental stress (e.g. low oxygen, temperature stress), disease (e.g. gill inflammation, immune activation), likelihood of imminent mortality (morbidity), and pathogen exposure (viruses, bacteria, fungal and protozoan parasites) (Miller-Saunders lab, DFO; see Newsletter #2). Gill tissues are also used to measure biotoxins and assess the exposure of Chinook to harmful algal biotoxins during their first year at sea (Ross lab, DFO; see Newsletter #3).
Otolith	Otoliths are removed from lethal samples to assess size-specific trends in survival and estuary residence time using otolith microchemistry measurements (Liao lab, DFO; see Newsletter #4).
Stomach contents	Stomach contents are examined from lethal samples to characterize the diet of caught Chinook salmon.
Other tissues	Other tissues (Muscle, liver, kidney, spleen, brain, heart) are taken from lethal samples to characterize and monitor contaminants in Chinook salmon (Loseto lab, DFO: see Newsletter #3) and assess indices of health and condition (Miller-Saunders lab, DFO; see Newsletter #2).
Scales	Scales collected from lethal samples inform an assessment of relative rate of growth throughout their first year at sea, which is used as a measure of salmon health.

How Do We Determine Stock of Origin?

One of the key objectives of this study is to determine how different WCVI Chinook stocks are distributed in space and time. When fish are caught, fin clip samples can be taken non-lethally and used to determine the stock of origin of the fish, using two genetic-based methods: **Genetic Stock Identification (GSI)** and **Parental-Based Tagging (PBT)**. DNA samples from this project were analyzed by the DFO Molecular Genetics Laboratory using both GSI and PBT to obtain stock composition information. Information on fish origin was also obtained from coded wire tags (CWT)², where present, by scanning for these tags in lethally sampled Chinook.

Under this project, the combination of origin information from CWT, GSI and PBT results were used to assign individuals to stock regions that correspond closely with Conservation Units (CU)³ for Chinook salmon and enable a high confidence of assignment⁴. Results are also rolled up from the CU to stock management unit (SMU)⁵ level for reporting.

2. Coded wire tags (CWTs) are tiny pieces of metal wire, about 1mm long, inserted into a salmon's snout and used for identification purposes. CWTs contain a unique numerical code that provides information on the fish's origin, age, and other characteristics when the adult fish is caught and its head is processed.

3. A Conservation Unit (CU) is a group of wild Pacific salmon sufficiently isolated from other groups that, if extirpated, is very unlikely to recolonize naturally within an acceptable timeframe, such as a human lifetime or a specified number of salmon generations.

4. Beacham, T.D., Wallace, C.G., Jonsen, K., McIntosh, B., Candy, J.R., Horst, K., Lynch, C., Willis, D., Luedke, W., Kearey, L., & Rondeau, E.B. (2021). Parentage-based tagging combined with genetic stock identification is a cost-effective and viable replacement for coded-wire tagging in large-scale assessments of marine Chinook salmon fisheries in British Columbia, Canada. *Evolutionary Applications* 14(5), 1365-1389

5. A 'stock management unit' (SMU) is a 'group of one or more conservation units (CU) that are managed together with the objective of achieving a joint status'. Region-wide, there are a total of 409 CUs that make up 69 Stock Management Units of Pacific salmon.

What is Genetic Stock Identification?

Genetic stock identification (GSI) is a scientific tool that uses genetic markers to determine the geographic origin of a fish. The method compares the genetic markers of an individual fish to the known genetic profiles of different reference populations and uses statistical models to assign individual fish to their most likely source population. Under the FtF project, GSI is used to identify Chinook to stock of origin to help improve our understanding of how different WCVI populations distribute themselves in time and space.

What is Parental-Based Tagging?

Parental-Based Tagging (PBT) is used to identify the precise origin (e.g. a specific hatchery, or even specific parents) of hatchery fish. It can also be used to identify the age of a fish. It uses a known genetic pedigree of the broodstock to assign an individual fish to its specific parents and, therefore, its hatchery of origin. It is generally used for tracking specific hatchery-produced fish and understanding their contribution to fisheries.

How do these two methods differ?

GSI is used for broad estimates of stock composition, whereas PBT can provide more detailed information on individual fish, such as age and specific origin. Both methods are important tools that can be used together for comprehensive management.

However, due to shared genetic similarity between salmon stocks on the WCVI (due to factors such as Chinook straying and spawning in non-natal rivers), it is challenging to assign an individual fish to a specific stock/river system using GSI. Typically, individuals are assigned with higher confidence to geographical aggregates that include multiple river systems with Chinook salmon (Figure 5).

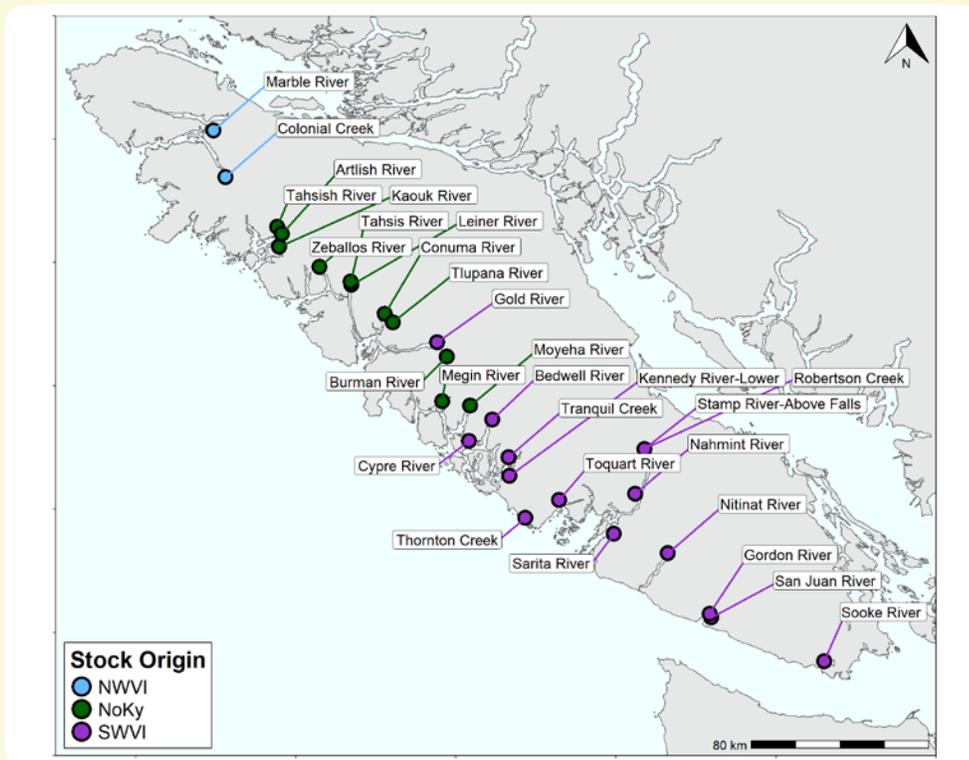


Figure 5. Chinook-bearing river systems on the WCVI that make up the stock region groupings for genetic stock identification, which includes the South-West Vancouver Island (SWVI), Nootka-Kyuquot (NoKy) and North-West Vancouver Island (NWVI) Conservation Units.

Results: Winter Microtrawling Surveys

Here we focus on the results from the winter microtrawling surveys for juvenile Chinook.

Winter Catch and Effort

Winter microtrawling surveys were successful in catching WCVI juvenile Chinook stocks and collecting samples to investigate salmon distribution, health and condition.

From 2020-2025, over 50,000 hooks were fished from Sooke Basin through Quatsino with ~7% catching a fish

(Figure 6 A). Microtrawling surveys caught nearly 3,700 Chinook salmon, with some bycatch of other fish, including salmon and rockfish species (Figure 6 B). Fishing effort was variable over years and areas, with the most effort focused in Clayoquot, Barkley and Nootka Sounds with Chinook caught in all areas fished (Figure 7).

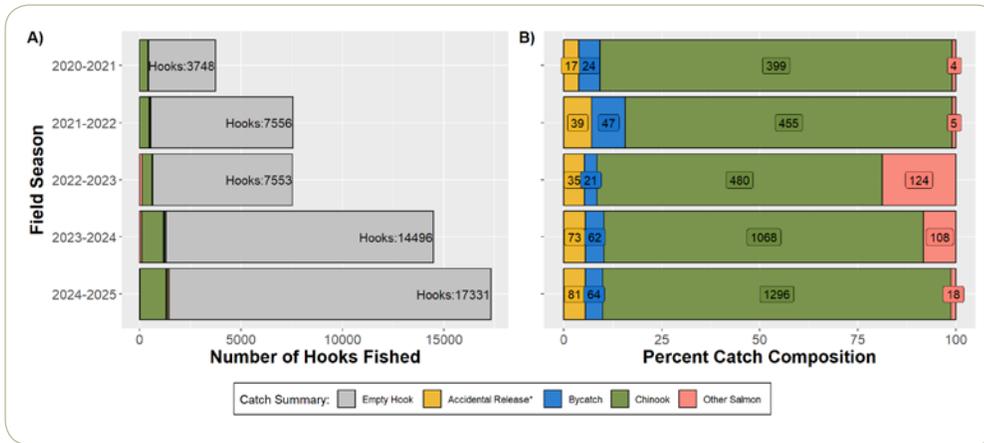


Figure 6. Total number of hooks fished during microtrawling surveys showing incidences of catch and no catch (A) and the composition of fish catch (B) by field season. Accidental releases refer to incidences where a fish was caught but lost from the hook while attempting to bring on board the vessel. Numbers in boxes represent sample sizes.

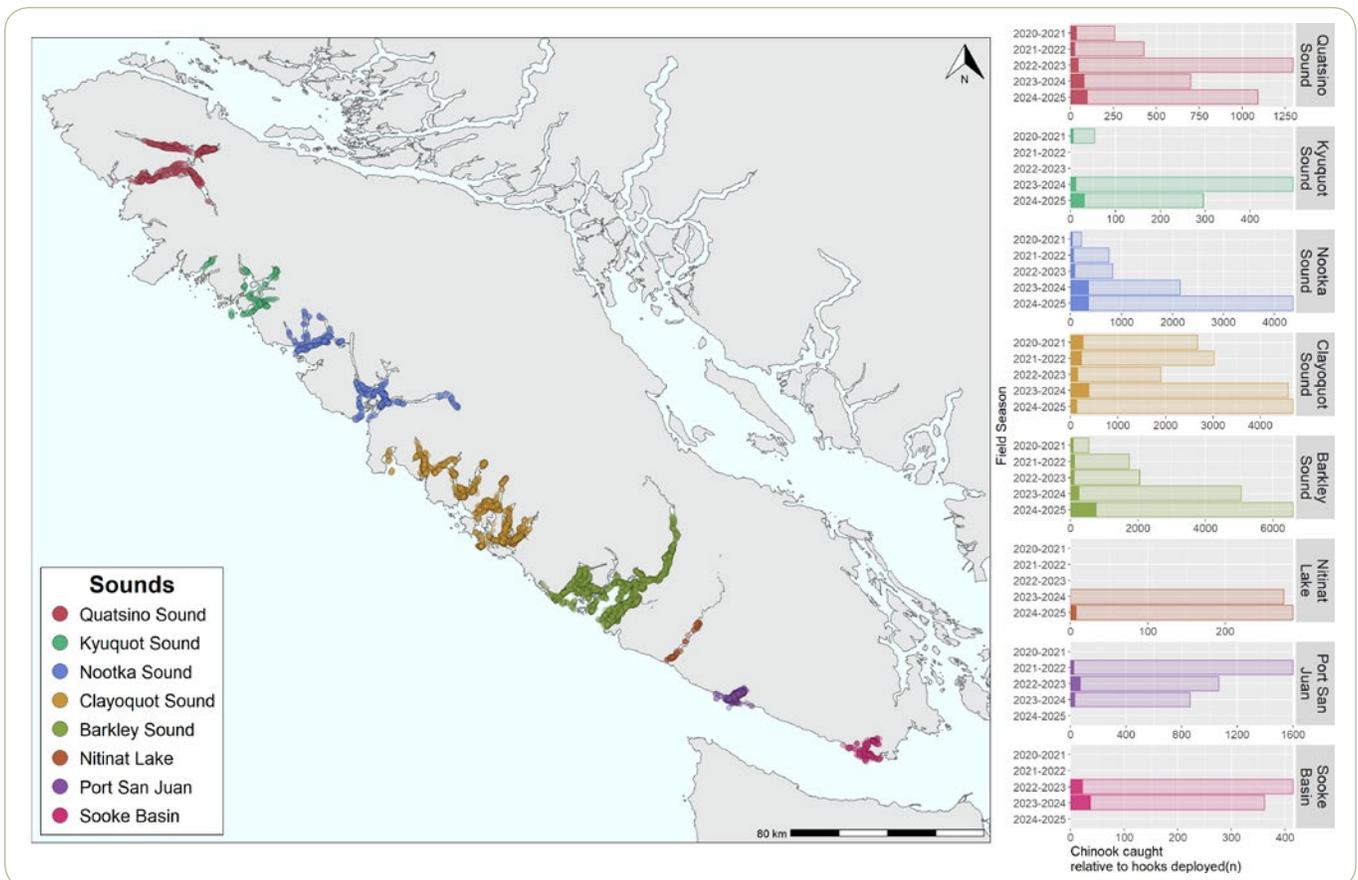


Figure 7. Microtrawling sets (dots) completed on the WCVI showing fishing effort (number of hooks) and Chinook catch summarized by fishing area and field season.



What Chinook stocks are being caught during the winter?

Over 3,500 fin-clip samples were collected from Chinook salmon caught during winter microtrawling surveys and submitted for genetic stock identification (GSI) to determine where fish originated from. Chinook catch was dominated by fish that originated from the WCVI with some interceptions of USA and other British Columbia stocks, including fish from the east coast of Vancouver Island, Fraser and the lower mainland (Figure 8 A). Most of the caught juvenile WCVI Chinook originated from the South-West Vancouver Island (SWVI) CU, with fish also caught from the Nootka-Kyuquot (NoKy) and North-West Vancouver Island (NWKI) CUs (Figure 8 B). Of the local WCVI juvenile Chinook, **over 77% were estimated to be of hatchery-origin** across years (Figure 8 C).

Distribution of juvenile Chinook during the winter

Microtrawling surveys from October through March showed that local juvenile Chinook are present throughout the entire winter in nearshore marine areas along the WCVI. Catch per unit effort was higher in the fall (October-December) for WCVI Chinook than late winter (January-March) (Figure 9).

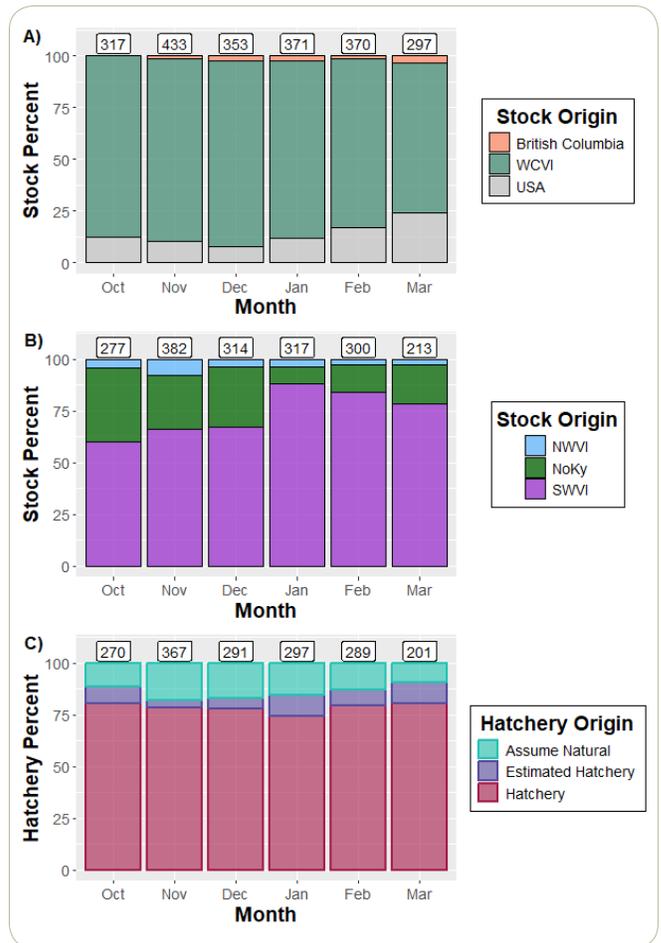


Figure 8. Stock and hatchery composition of Chinook caught during microtrawling surveys summarized across fishing areas (Sooke Basin through Quatsino Sound) and field seasons (October-March annually from 2020-2024). Chinook are assigned to the level of the WCVI SMU, USA and BC (A) and juvenile Chinook from the WCVI SMU are assigned to stock regions (B) and estimated as hatchery or natural origin based on PBT, CWT and adipose-clip information and estimated hatchery based on PBT tagging rate expansions (C). Numbers in boxes represent sample sizes.

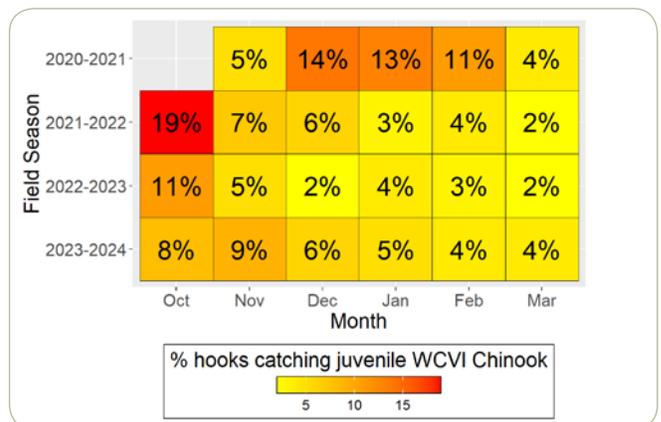


Figure 9. WCVI Juvenile Chinook catch per unit effort (CPUE, Chinook/hooks) of microtrawling surveys summarized across fished areas by field season and month from 2020-2024.



On their northern migration, juvenile Chinook passed through nearshore marine areas on the WCVI, as seen by the detection of fish from southern areas within northern sounds over time (Figure 10). Moreover, some Chinook stayed within their area of origin (sound, inlet or basin where natal river tributaries drain into) for the duration of their first winter at sea. For example, Robertson Creek hatchery-origin Chinook from Stamp River migrate into the marine waters of Barkley Sound and were detected within this sound throughout all sampling months, as well as throughout other northern sounds on the WCVI (Figure 10). **These results indicate WCVI juvenile Chinook may reside on the west coast for the duration of their first winter at sea and nearshore marine areas are important overwintering habitats.**

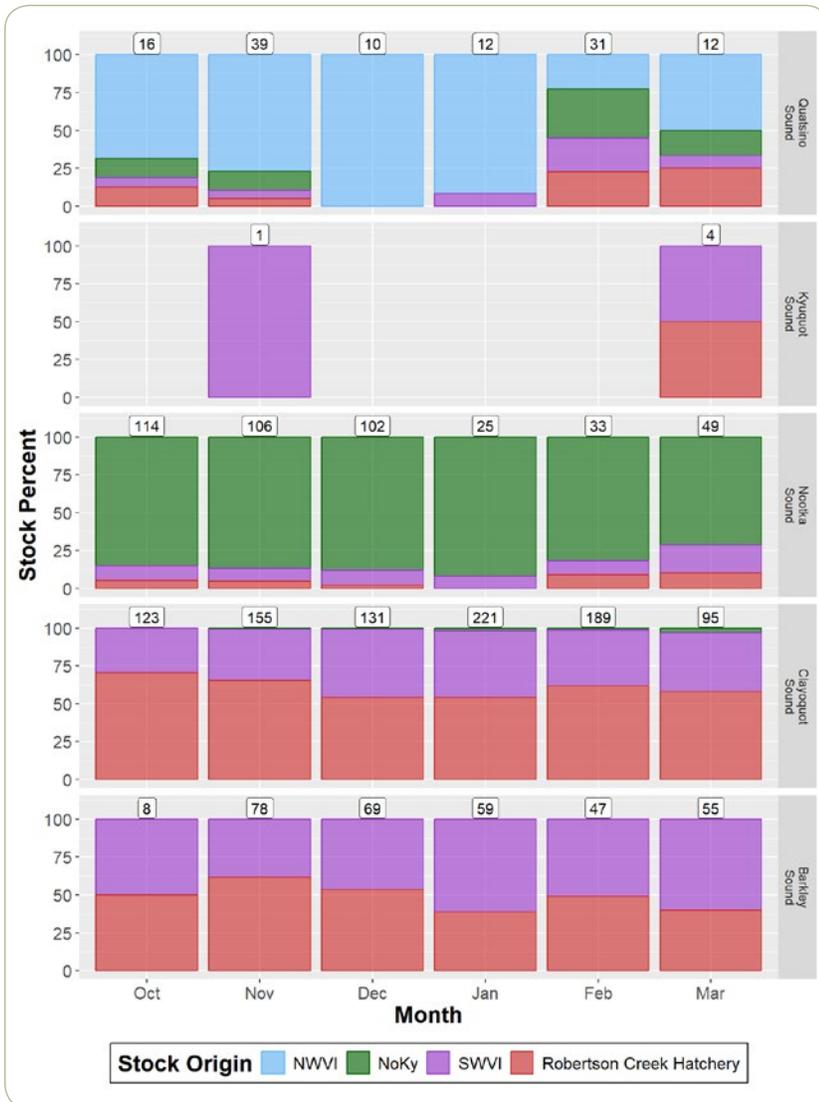


Figure 10. Stock composition of caught juvenile Chinook WCVI stocks summarized across field seasons (October-March annually from 2020-2024) by month from Barkley Sound through Quatsino Sound. Fish are assigned to the North-West Vancouver Island (NWVI) CU, the Nootka-Kyuquot (NoKy) CU, to the South-West Vancouver Island (SWVI) CU or as Robertson Creek Hatchery origin (based on PBT assignments). Numbers in boxes represent sample sizes.

Juvenile Chinook diet over the winter

Over 600 WCVI Chinook were lethally sampled from microtrawling surveys to obtain internal tissues and structures for understanding fish health and condition. Stomachs were extracted to identify contents and determine what fish were eating during the winter. Stomachs are still being processed for diet information, but preliminary information shows WCVI juvenile Chinook are eating a variety of prey sources in the winter (Figure 11). ***Fish and crustaceans, including amphipods and krill, appear to be common prey sources for juvenile Chinook over the winter*** with fish also ingesting mollusks, worms, and insects (Figure 11). Additional stomach samples collected from juvenile salmon during spring outmigration, summer and winter will be processed to gain information on how diet composition varies across the first year at sea.



Figure 11. Prey composition of WCVI juvenile Chinook stomach samples collected via microtrawling surveys across field seasons (October-March annually from 2020-2024) and from Port San Juan through Quatsino Sound summarized by month. Numbers in boxes represent sample sizes.



Stomach contents include Pacific octopus (left photo), amphipods (centre) and crustacean larvae (right).



Jessy Bokvist Bio

Jessy Bokvist is a biologist with DFO South Coast Salmon Stock Assessment based out of Nanaimo, B.C. Born and raised in interior B.C., Jessy grew up fishing for salmon, groundfish and invertebrates out of Prince Rupert, during which she grew an appreciation and evergreen curiosity for the ocean. She obtained her MSc degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Calgary, studying epigenetic changes to Pacific coho salmon under hatchery environments in collaboration with DFO. In 2020, Jessy joined DFO and started working with First Nations and organizations to catch and sample juvenile Chinook on the west coast. Jessy is the lead scientist on this Follow the Fish project investigating WCVI juvenile Chinook distribution, diet and health.



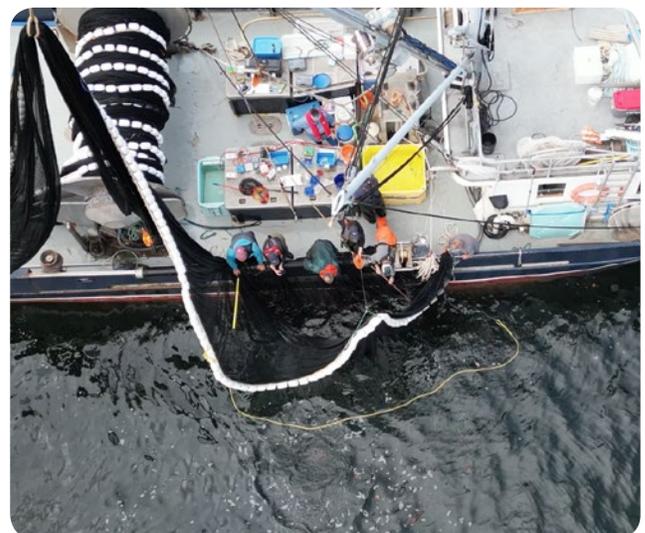
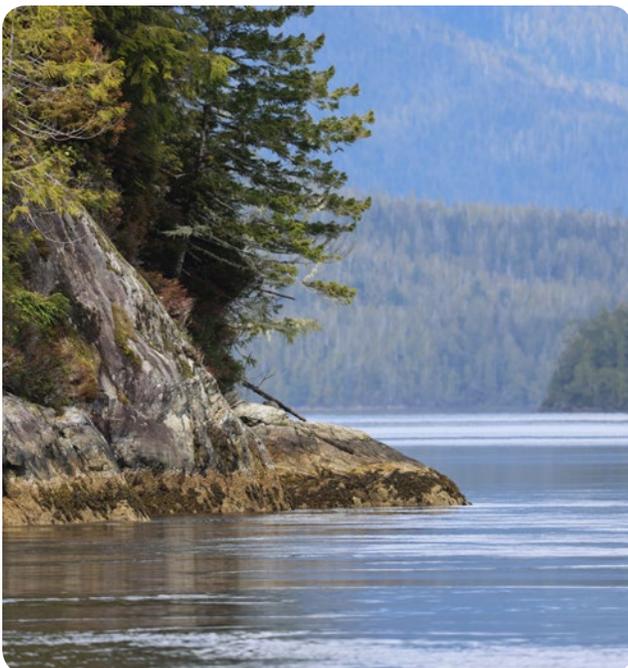
Jessy Bokvist sampling a juvenile Chinook salmon caught during a microtrolling survey in Clayoquot Sound

Next steps

This project is in its final year, with final analyses and reports to be completed by April 2026. The team is still dissecting juvenile salmon caught throughout surveys, and samples are being processed to gain additional information on stock and diet composition. In particular, scales collected from juvenile salmon are currently being measured to characterize salmon growth; this indicator of salmon health will be compared with diet information to understand how different prey sources may impact relative rates of growth for juvenile Chinook. These data on growth are also being provided to other researchers under Follow the Fish for their own analyses related to Chinook health.

Analytical models are being built by this team, and with others under the Follow the Fish group, to better understand fish distribution, health and condition. Fish distribution over time and space, between stocks and hatchery and natural origin fish, and in relation to environmental variables (e.g. temperature) is being explored using data from winter microtrolling surveys. The year-round dataset on fish diet, condition, growth and origin is being used to better understand the linkages between prey availability/quality and salmon health.

The outcomes from this project will inform data gaps around limiting factors related to prey availability/quality and intraspecific competition and how these factors impact Chinook health and condition. This information will help prioritize next steps for rebuilding and guide potential mitigation and/or management actions for WCVI Chinook.





Project Team

Members of the FtF WCVI Salmon Survey team: **Brian Hendriks** (left), **Emily Braun** (centre) and **Kaleb Mantha-Rensi** (right)

This project is led by South Coast Salmon Stock Assessment on Vancouver Island, BC, with many people contributing to its success! Brian Hendriks is a biologist on the team working on field surveys, data wrangling and analyses, and Emily Braun and Kaleb Mantha-Rensi are technicians working on field surveys, fish dissections and processing of the many samples collected under this project. Special thanks to John Fulton, Nicholas Bohlender,

Kayla Zielke, Mackenzie Bartlett, and Laura Fernandez who worked on this project team in earlier years.

Thank you to past and present Stock Assessment staff who joined field surveys, including Adrian Johnson, Jonathan Archambault, Jessica Meier, Ryan Kearey, Piper-Lynn Brady, Katie Davidson, Alexandria Niese and Erin Rechisky. Thank you to our colleagues under the Follow the Fish program that have assisted with this project, including the molecular genetics, zooplankton, biotoxin, and otolith teams.

Thank you to our collaborators!

Thank you to all contributors and collaborators involved with this program and the First Nations in whose traditional territories these salmon surveys have occurred. The scope of this project would not be possible without the continued efforts of collaborators to catch and sample Chinook and a mutual interest to understand salmon health.

- Ahousaht First Nation
- Coal Harbour Ltd.
- British Columbia Conservation Foundation
- Cedar Coast Field Station
- Charter Tofino
- Ditidaht First Nation
- Ehattesaht/Chinehkint First Nation
- Ha'oom Fisheries Society
- Hesquiaht First Nation
- Hupačasath First Nation
- Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- The Juanes Lab (University of Victoria)
- Ka'yuu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tlas7et'h' First Nations
- LGL Limited
- Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society
- M.C. Wright and Associates Ltd.
- Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nations
- Nootka Sound Watershed Society
- Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- Nuchatlaht Tribe
- Pacheedaht First Nation
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Quatsino First Nation
- Redd Fish Restoration Society
- Thornton Creek Enhancement Society
- Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
- Toquaht Nation
- Tseshaht First Nation
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- Uchucklesaht Tribe
- Yuułu?if?ath Government

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Illustrations in this newsletter have been designed by Hailey Shafer and Ken Jones with photographs taken by DFO employees, collaborators, Mack Bartlett and Mitch Miller.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2025. Characterizing juvenile Chinook salmon distribution, diet and health on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. New research and monitoring for Pacific salmon and their ecosystems. Follow the Fish Newsletter Vol. 5: 16 pp.

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